

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended and Claim 7 is cancelled. Claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-20, as amended, remain in the application. No new matter is added by the amendments to the Claims.

The Rejections:

In the Final Office Action dated August 23, 2006 the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakai et al. U.S. Patent No. 5105109 in view of Yuichiro et al. JP Publication No. 2000-255941.

The Examiner rejected Claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakai in view of Yuichiro, and further in view of Yoo et al. U.S. Patent No. 5080201.

The Examiner rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakai in view of Yuichiro, and further in view of Gruber et al. U.S. Patent No. 6105798.

The Examiner rejected Claims 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakai in view of Yuichiro, and further in view of Gagnon et al. U.S. Patent No. 5086881.

The Examiner rejected Claims 8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakai in view of Yuichiro, and further in view of Nakanishi U.S. Patent No. 5300737.

In the Advisory Action dated December 12, 2006, the Examiner stated that the arguments regarding the combination of Nakai in view of Yuichiro is not persuasive.

The Response:

Applicant appreciates the allowance of Claims 15 and 17-20.

In the Final Office Action dated August 23, 2006 the Examiner stated that Claims 7, 12 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant amended Claim 1 to include the subject matter of cancelled Claim 7.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, Applicant believes that the claims of record now define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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